

# FRACTIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTORS BOARD

## Spring 2019

I'm just back from the Central States Numismatic Society show. There wasn't much in the way of Fractional material, but next year CSNS will combine with the Professional Currency Dealers Association in order to keep their annual show going, which had been held at Rosemont every March. At that time, I anticipate there will be tons of Fractional notes and other paper.

I did add two notes to my Canadian collection, however and will be looking for more at the Kansas City Show. Join us there at the Sheraton Crown Center June 13-16. There will be auctions and a Friday night dinner for FCCB members and a Saturday club meeting. I've also made arrangements for a club table that will be mentioned in the show pamphlet. I haven't been contacted yet with the table number. This year there will be cash prizes for exhibitors made possible by SPMC.

Lyn Knight's auction has 53 lots of postage/fractional, including several multiples and a full sheet. The fractional will cross the auction block on Friday, the same evening as the FCCB Annual Dinner. Since the fractional is 500 lots into the auction that starts at 6:00pm, hopefully interested fractional people will be able to get back to cast their winning bids!

Speaking of the FCCB Dinner, it's scheduled for Friday at 6:00pm, again at Jack Stack's BBQ. We'll meet in the lobby of the Sheraton at 5:30 and the hotel shuttle will take us to the restaurant. We've made reservations for 15 and I have to call/confirm again on Friday morning or adjust the count. So if you're planning on joining us for this wonderful time, be sure to e-mail or call me and tell me how many seats to hold for you as this is a popular restaurant and space is limited, so we may not be able to add people later, especially Friday evening!



Kansas City also has some great museums. The WWI Memorial is spectacular, and the Negro Baseball League Museum is very well done. There will also be an SPMC Breakfast at the Train Station...another great tourist attraction. Harvey's restaurant has recently installed a new floor speaker system to improve the acoustics so we're expecting that everyone will be able to hear the program much better than years pass.

I'll be at the show with my phone, 586-214-1444. You can also contact Jerry Fochtman at 713-502-3255 and/or David Stitely at 215-287-0746.

See you in Kansas City!

*Bill Brandimore*

FCCB Newsletter  
c/o Jerry Fochtman  
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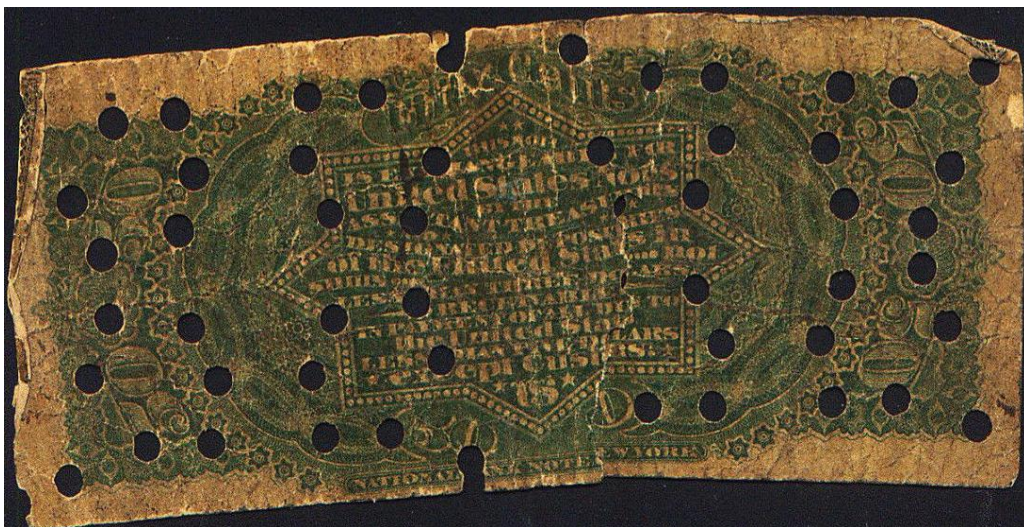
# Interesting 4<sup>th</sup> Issue 50¢ Counterfeit

By

*Rick Melamed*

This CFT1374 Lincoln fractional was sold on eBay. The seller claimed it to be a counterfeit though it was impossible to tell from the image on the internet. Noted counterfeit fractional expert, Art Paradis, acquired the note and with close observation he determined that the fractional is indeed a counterfeit.

It is quite humorous to observe that it was punched with so many holes. Usually when a note is found to be a forgery by a financial institution it is stamped or punch cancelled: **"COUNTERFEIT"**. One would have to be rather upset to punch the note 54 times. I guess we can call this the 'holey' grail of Lincoln counterfeit fractionals (oohh..painful).



## Member's Trading Post

Looking for Graphics of Satirical Notes and other Rare Fractional Items for Historical Digital Collection Effort.  Jerry Fochtman <a href="mailto:jerry@fochtman.us">jerry@fochtman.us</a>	Researcher/Collector interested in ALL fractionals with inverted or mirrored plate numbers. If you have one (for sale or research) please e-mail <a href="mailto:riconio@yahoo.com">riconio@yahoo.com</a> or call 818/591-2326. Thanks – Rick Melamed.	Want lists serviced and auction representation with over 40 years of Fractional experience  Mike Marchioni <a href="mailto:Marchion@ETSU.EDU">Marchion@ETSU.EDU</a> 423/928-8551 or 423/202-5290
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Current FCCB Members are welcome to submit requests for the Trading Post!

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## FCCB Annual Dues are Overdue!

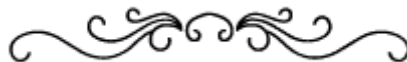
By

*David Stitely*

If you don't have a lifetime membership be sure you've paid your annual FCCB dues! David Stitely has tried to contact everyone we've not received renewals from to remind them. In case you haven't sent-in your payment, please send it right away to:

David Stitely, FCCB Membership/Treasurer  
P.O. Box 136  
Gradyville, PA 19039

If we don't hear from you, we bid you adieu, as this will be your last newsletter.





# Mea Culpa!

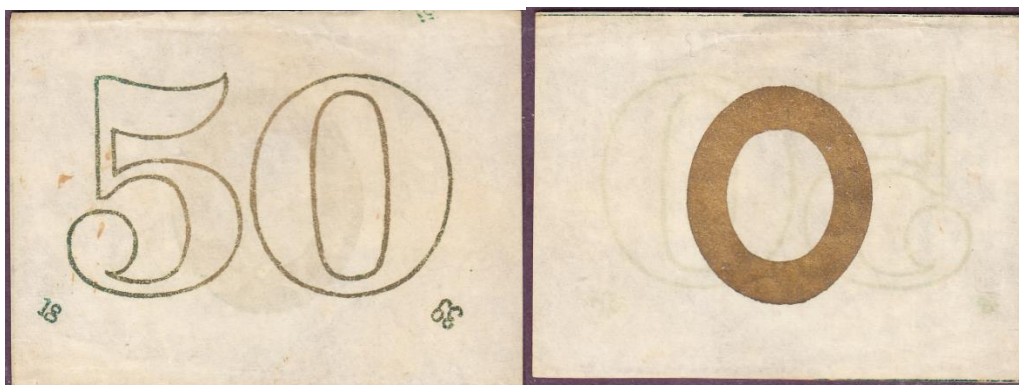
By

*Rick Melamed*

While doing research one must always strive to be accurate when publishing. In this case, I presented erroneous information and I would like to set the record straight. A fellow FCCB member recently contacted me about my 2<sup>nd</sup> issue surcharge article from the Spring 2018 issue of the FCCB Newsletter. The following notes, which have Milton Friedberg numbers, are not Treasury issued Experimentals, but rather, counterfeits. I presented them as legitimate; they are in fact not real.

When researching the article, I observed in the John Ford sale (Part XIX – October 11, 2007), lot 331 was an Experimental fractional with just surcharges on the face and back. Nowhere in the auction description did it mention this note was a counterfeit. The cataloguer cited Milton **2C50FR.1b** with the following heading:

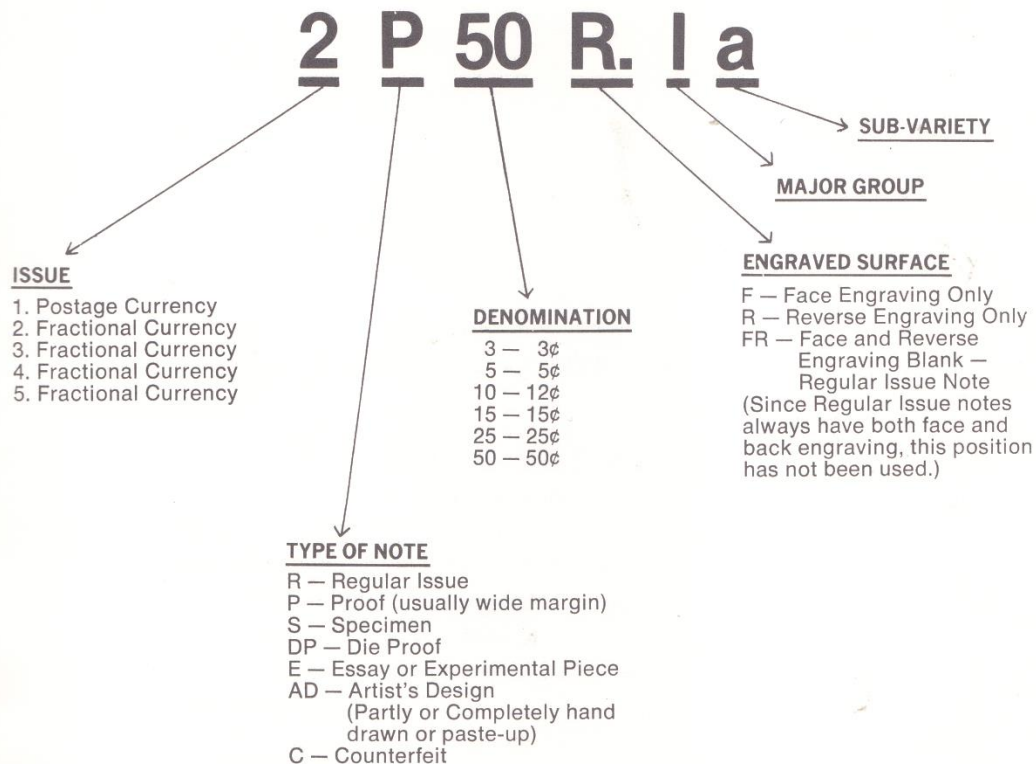
**ODD BOND PAPER 50 CENTS BRONZING  
“EXPERIMENTAL” WITH UNUSUAL SURCHARGES**



The 2<sup>nd</sup> counterfeit Experimental (Milton **2C50FR.1a**) cited in my original article (and not from the Ford sale) is a forger's progress proof. It is the same note as above, but with the crimson shield added. The verso is the same blank paper with just the bronze oval. Both contain the "18-39" and large "50" surcharges.

In hindsight I should have checked Milton's encyclopedia to verify its authenticity. Milton's cataloging, while intimidating at first, becomes clearer with more familiarity. The following, from Milton's encyclopedia explains his numbering system:

## GUIDE TO MILTON NUMBERING SYSTEM



If these were Treasury issued Experimentals, Milton may have designated this as **2E50FR.1a** and **2E50FR.1b**. I suspect that since auction companies never sell counterfeits at auction (and risk the wrath of the Secret Service); the cataloguer used the code “ODD BOND PAPER” instead of the verboten counterfeit designation. The “C” in **2C50RF.1a/b** was an obvious reference to its counterfeit nature – frankly, I just missed it.

At the Kansas City IPMS show in June 2018 former FCCB and SPMC president Benny Bolin (current SPMC Paper Money Editor) and counterfeit fractional expert Art Paradis explained to me my mistake. Just to be sure, Art previously observed the note under 40X magnification stating that the paper was not consistent with Treasury Department standards. Both Benny and Art opined that this was in actuality a Counterfeiter's Experimental. Apparently, the forgers did some test sheets of just the bronze surcharges and another with the crimson shield added. With all that effort to produce a counterfeit they messed up the usual “63” and it came out looking like an inverted “39.”

Fortunately this has a happy ending. Benny owns a couple of these Counterfeit Experimentals. One he used for a display for the show and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one he made available for me to purchase. Which I happily did. It is a very cool note and a reminder for me to do my homework. Thanks Benny!

Finally, for those who might think that a note with just surcharges on both sides (with no other design) is a counterfeit, then the following should prove of interest. It is a legitimate Experimental, Milton **2E10FR.3**. The "T-1-18-63" and fiber paper is consistent to our expectations of a regular issue Fr. 1249.



Thanks to Benny Bolin and Art Paradis for their gentle and patient explanation of my mistake. Also to Heritage for the image of the 10¢ Experimental. Lastly, I'd like to offer my sincere apology to my fellow club members for my mistake.

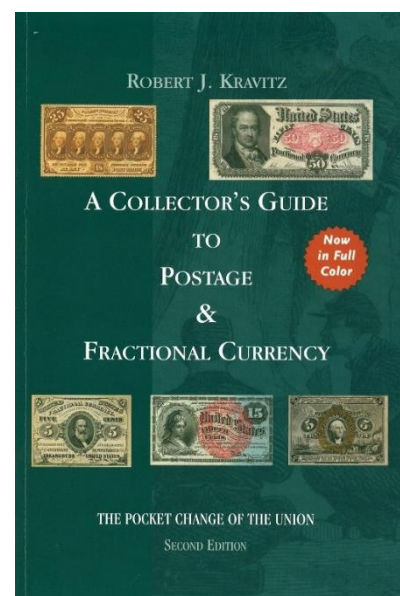


## **DON'T FORGET - SPECIAL PRICING for F.C.C.B. MEMBERS!**

To get your copy before our limited supply is gone, send a check for \$30.00 (includes shipping!) made-out to F.C.C.B. along with your mailing address to:

**Dave Stitely**  
**P.O. Box 136**  
**Gradyville, PA 19039**

Dave will bring a few copies to Kansas City, so if you'd like to get one please contact Dave and he'll earmark a copy for you!





# POSTAGE NOTE REPRODUCTION IN SILVER

By

*Rick Melamed*

From an eBay auction is a sterling silver reproduction of a 1st issue 10¢ note (Fr. 1242). This is a modern issued item so its value is the intrinsic worth of the silver content. Normally, this is not worth bringing to light. However, the irony of this silver reproduction is worth mentioning.

The main reason why postage and fractional currency existed was because of the severe shortage of silver and gold needed to make circulating coinage. A 10¢ fractional was an effective replacement for the scarce silver dimes of the period. Observing a silver reproduction of something used to replace a note that represented the shortage of silver is the very definition of irony.



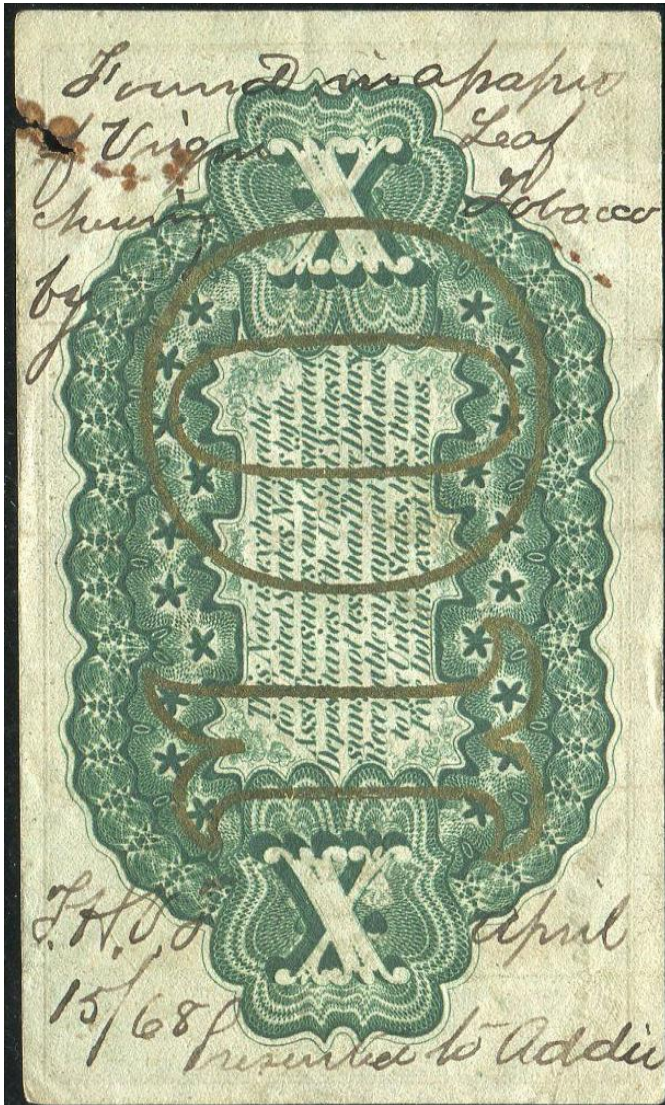


# FRACTIONAL WITH A TOBACCO REFERENCE INSCRIPTION

By

*Rick Melamed*

Pure and simple...we love manuscript fractional notes. It provides a human connection with messages that range from the banal (such as dates) to the other end of the spectrum with inscriptions detailing the devastating impact of the Civil War. Previous issues of the FCCB have showcased inscriptions with powerful messages. The inscription contained is a factual accounting of a fractional found in an unusual place.



The cursive inscription on the Fr. 1255 shown reads:

*Found in a paper of virgin leaf chewing tobacco by...*

On the bottom it continues:

*T.H.V.? April 15,  
(18)68 Presented to  
Addie*

Is some of the brown stains residue of the tobacco? Perhaps. The person who found the note in a leaf of chewing tobacco seemed surprised enough to memorialize his/her discovery. Many thanks to Sharon Melamed and Ronn Palm with their help in deciphering the inscription. Please forward any interesting manuscript notes. We'd gladly highlight them in a future issue of the newsletter.





# Why are some Fractional Currency Notes of the same Fr. Numbers Different Sizes

By

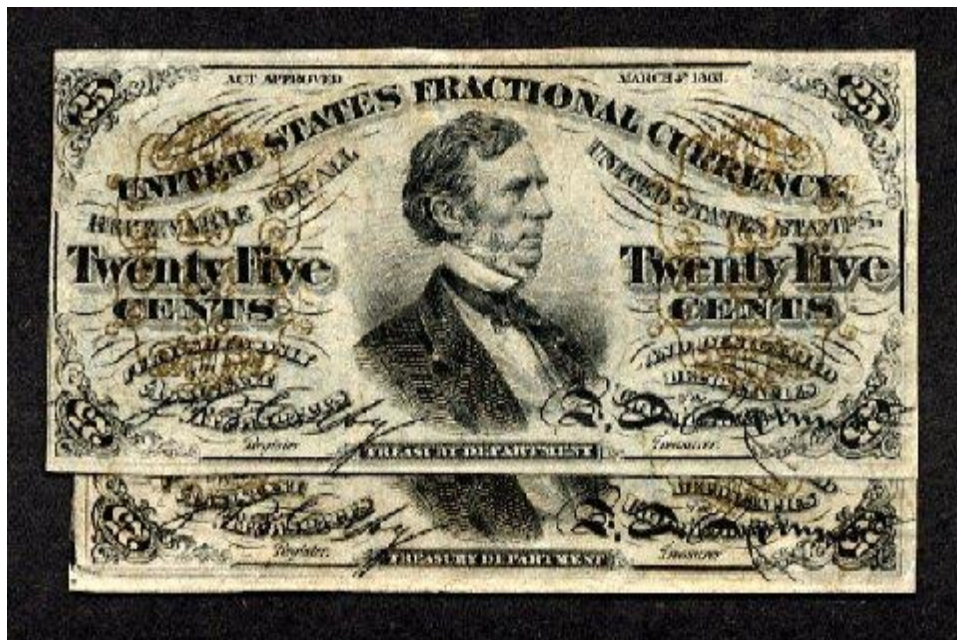
*Rob Kravitz*

Recently I was reading an article that Eric P. Newman wrote on Heath's Counterfeit Detectors. This was in the ANA Anthology – Celebrating 100 Years of the ANA (1891-1991). In the article, Laban Heath had written to Spencer Clark about the printing of plate notes for his detector books. Spencer Clark, in an April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1867 letter, assured Heath that given the present state of art, it can be thus done nowhere else in the world. Clark went on to explain that the dry printing process gives a clearer, sharper and more uniform impression than wet printing, and always resulted in the same size print. In the wet printing process Clark explained that there is no certainty that currency will have the same dimensions as other currency printed at the same time and from the same plate because wetting and drying causes alternate expanding and shrinking.

I have seen this, notes of different sizes mostly on fiber paper notes. From what Clark said, I would think he would have gone to only printing notes with the dry process by the end of April, 1867. After this date one should not see this difference in size in the notes that were produced. For example; the Grant/Sherman notes were printed beginning in May, 1867 through November, 1867; Spinner type-2 backs were printed beginning in May, 1868 through April, 1869; and all the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> issue notes would have been produced using the dry process.

Walter Breen believed that numerals “1” and “2” surcharges in the upper-right corner refer to the wet or dry printing process: “1” for dry printing and “2” for wet printing. So we can check this premise to see if it's only the notes with the corner surcharge of “2” that are of different sizes.

*Editor's Note: In our Winter, 2006 edition, member John Ramsey sent us the following image of 2 different size Fessenden fiber notes, posing the question if anyone had ever encountered this before. Remembering this article, it appears that Rob has found an Clark's explanation!*



# REMEMBERING MATT ROTHERT:

## Fractional Collector, Author and Numismatic Luminary

By

*Rick Melamed*

One of the revered figures in numismatics research is Matt Rotherth. Before Milt Friedberg published **The Encyclopedia of United States Postage & Fractional Currency**, Rotherth published his well-regarded Whitman pamphlet entitled **A Guide Book of Fractional Currency** in 1963. Unlike Robert Friedberg's **Paper Money of the U.S.** first published in 1953, (which was essentially just a list of the fractional notes with no context), Rotherth's book gave an informative history on the origins of fractional currency and brought to the fractional hobbyists valuable and detailed information. His images of Spinner's initial design of postage currency in the form of postage stamps pasted onto cut pieces of U.S. Treasury letterhead and the very first "Postage Stamp" Currency Proofs are astonishing because it represents the very first concept of what Postage Currency was to become (the proofs were from Herman Crofoot collection and was eventually donated to the Smithsonian with Matt Rotherth's help working with Mrs. Crofoot).

The timing was prescient and provided many collectors a keener interest into the hobby. It can be argued that because of Rotherth's contribution, fractional currency as a valuable collectible came into its own. Because we know more about its origins and its raison d'être, fractional as a whole attained more gravitas. 54 years later, the impact of Rotherth's research continue to resonate. We owe a continued debt of gratitude to Matt Rotherth for his efforts.

A criticism of Rotherth's book is that it perpetuated a nearly 75 year misunderstanding that the issuance of Postage Currency was illegal or at the very least presumes that the U.S. Treasury overstepped its authority. Subsequent research, which was eloquently presented by Fred Reed in Bank Note Reporter in 2012, has shown that a misinterpretation of the 1862 law was the culprit.

The federal law was hastily crafted by Congress in the closing hours of a July 17, 1862 session. Its aim was to give leeway to the Treasury to come up with a solution for the severe coin shortage during that era. The intent of the law was to monetize stamps to counteract the shortages. The key phrase in the law as written by Congress states that "postage and other stamps" could be monetized. For many years folks interpreted the law literally. Since Postage Currency was not technically postage or a stamp, many were of the opinion that the U.S. Treasury took liberties and issued the notes without proper authorization. In March 1863, Congress acted again which provided the law that allowed the U.S. Treasury to legally print "Fractional Currency" giving rise to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> issues.

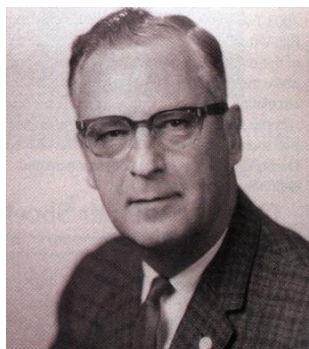
Reed's lengthy 12-page essay is a fascinating read and gives a detailed and cogent explanation of the legality of Postage Currency and Congress's initial intent. It is available online at the following URL:

<http://numismaster.com/ta/numis/Article.jsp?ad=article&ArticleId=25557>



## MATT ROTHERT BIOGRAPHY

From the encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture is a brief biography of Matt Rothert:



*Matthew Herman (Matt) Rothert Sr., a nationally recognized coin collector, was responsible for having "In God We Trust" placed on U.S. paper currency. He was a furniture manufacturer and president of the American Numismatic Association (ANA) from 1965 to 1967.*

*Matt Rothert was born on March 17, 1904 in Huntingburg, Indiana. Little is known of his family, though he had at least two sisters. Rothert received a BS from Notre Dame University in 1924, moved to [Camden \(Ouachita County\)](#), and founded the Camden Furniture Company, serving as its president until he retired in 1975. On April 10, 1937, he married Janet Hope Firing. They had two boys and two girls.*

*Rothert's interest in numismatics, or coin collecting, began when he found his father's old coins. In time, his interest and collection grew and included rare items. Among these were a Confederate silver penny, one of twelve minted, and a \$50 Federal Reserve note, then worth \$2,000.*

*At church one Sunday in 1953, looking at the collection plate, Rothert realized that only coins bore the motto "In God We Trust." He believed that a message about God on U.S. paper currency would reach more people because of its wider circulation. Rothert wrote letters and gave speeches promoting his idea. As a result, Senator [J. William Fulbright](#) of Arkansas, along with several other senators and representatives from around the country, proposed the bill to Congress. President Dwight Eisenhower signed the proposal into law on July 11, 1955.*

*For his work in numismatics, Rothert received the ANA Medal of Merit in 1960 and later served as president of the ANA. In addition, he received its highest accolade, the Farran Zerbe Award, in 1973. One of his three books, *Arkansas Obsolete Notes and Scrip* (1985), won an award from the Numismatic Literary Guild in 1986.*

*Rothert died on September 18, 1989. He is buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Camden.*

## MATT ROTHERT FRACTIONAL AUCTION

In November 1973, Rothert consigned his vast collection of Large, Small, Continental, Confederate, Obsolete and Fractional currency to the American Auction Association. Of the Fractionals, there were nearly 200 lots. While lacking the rarest of notes (i.e.: Fr.1352 and Fr.1255a) he nonetheless had a very impressive collection including an Fr.1373a.

We'd like to take this opportunity to view his collection in terms of prices realized. It is always interesting to assess where the market has come. To gauge how important Rothert's sale was, in opening text of the prices realized, AAA wrote that more bidders (over 1,000) participated in the sale (more than any other AAA sale to date) with nearly every dealer and major collector participating. As we learned from subsequent and previous major auction events, the numismatic world takes note and is highly engaged in these type of great events.

In 1973, we did not have the precise grading as we do today. Terms like Gem or Superb Gem were not used in auction catalogs. A simple "New" was usually used to describe an uncirculated note. But today, with 11 grade levels of uncirculated, the old terminology "New" paints a vague picture. The description and images shown in the catalog show that Rothert had a great eye. He collected well centered beautiful notes; most would grade Choice CU to Gem. So when you do your mental comparison with today's prices, one should take that in consideration. We easily come to the conclusion that we would all like to take a time machine back to the Nixon era to pick up some real bargains.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Issue</b>								
5¢:	FR1228 New:	\$65	FR1229 New:	\$65	FR1230 New:	\$48	FR1231 New:	\$90
10¢:	FR1240 New:	\$60	FR1241 New:	\$70	FR1242 New:	\$55	FR1243 New:	\$90
25¢:	FR1279 New:	\$80	FR1280 AU:	\$40	FR1281 New:	\$55	FR1282 New:	\$190
50¢:	FR1310 New:	\$105	FR1311 New:	\$145	FR1312 New:	\$80	FR1313 New:	\$160
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Issue</b>								
5¢:	FR1232 New:	\$38	FR1233 New:	\$33	FR1234 AU:	\$20	FR1235 AU:	\$50
10¢:	FR1244 New:	\$33	FR1245 New:	\$33	FR1246 New:	\$40	FR1247 New:	\$38
	FR1248 New:	\$850	FR1249 New:	\$40				
25¢:	FR1283 New:	\$40	FR1284 New:	\$38	FR1285 XF:	\$28	FR1286 New:	\$43
	FR1286 w/inv S New: \$200				FR1288 New:	\$40	FR1289 New:	\$25
	FR1290: New:	\$50						
50¢	FR1316: New	\$50	FR1318 New:	\$45	FR1320 New:	\$75	FR1321 New:	\$35
	FR1322 New:	\$80						
<b>3rd Issue</b>								
3¢:	FR1226 New:	\$65	FR1227 New:	\$55				
5¢:	FR1236 New:	\$65	FR1237 New:	\$38	FR1238 New:	\$48	FR1239 New:	\$55
10¢:	FR1251 New:	\$50	FR1252 New:	\$60	FR1253 New:	\$70	FR1254 New:	\$35
	FR1255 New:	\$40	FR1256 New:	\$33				
15¢	FR1272-WM G/S Front & Back New:			\$185	FR1274-WM G/S Front & Back New:			\$300
	FR127x-NM G/S Front & Back New: - Rare no signature error: \$925							
25¢:	FR1291 New:	\$63	FR1292 New:	\$55	FR1294 New:	\$32	FR1295 New:	\$43
	FR1297 New:	\$40	FR1298 New:	\$130	FR1299 New:	\$275	FR1300 New:	\$700
50¢ Spinner								
	FR1324 New:	\$30	FR1325 AU:	\$70	FR1326 New:	\$65	FR1327 New:	\$70
	FR1328 New:	\$75	FR1328a (No Register signature)			\$600	FR1329 New:	\$95
	FR1330 New:	\$1,350	FR1331 New:	\$33	FR1332 New:	\$50	FR1333 New:	\$43
	FR1335 New:	\$43	FR1336 New:	\$65	FR1337 New:	\$50	FR1338 XF:	\$28
	FR1339 New:	\$33	FR1340 New:	\$80	FR1341 New:	\$60	FR1342 New:	\$50
50¢ Justice								
	FR1343 New:	\$70	FR1344 New	\$165	FR1345 New:	\$60	FR1346 New:	\$38
	FR1347 New:	\$67	FR1348 New:	\$105	FR1349 New:	\$43	FR1350 XF:	\$38
	FR1354 XF:	\$525	FR1355 New:	\$75	FR1356 New:	\$105	FR1357 New:	\$300
	FR1358 New:	\$55	FR1359 New:	\$70	FR1360 New:	\$48	FR1361 New:	\$38
	FR1362 AU:	\$23	FR1363 AU:	\$55	FR1364 New:	\$48	FR1365 New:	\$60
	FR1366 New:	\$25	FR1367 New:	\$135	FR1368 XF:	\$35	FR1369 New:	\$45
	FR1370 New:	\$140	FR1371 AU:	\$130	FR1372 New:	\$155	FR1373 XF:	\$50



<b>4th Issue</b>								
10¢:	FR1257 New:	\$38	FR1258 New:	\$40	FR1259 New:	\$43	FR1261 New:	\$18
15¢:	FR1267 New:	\$65	FR1268 New:	\$55	FR1269 New:	\$65	FR1271 New:	\$65
25¢:	FR1301 New:	\$55	FR1303 New:	\$33	FR1307 New:	\$38		
50¢:	Lincoln FR1374 New: \$70 FR1376 Stanton New: \$75 FR1379 Dexter New: \$80							
<b>5th Issue</b>								
10¢:	FR1264 New:	\$53	FR1265 New:	\$33	FR1266 New:	\$40		
25¢:	FR1308 New:	\$55	FR1309 New:	\$55				
50¢:	FR1381 New:	\$55						
<b>Miscellaneous</b>								
FR1259 bundled pack of 50: \$575 FR1309 bundled pack of 40: \$450								
FR1242 Uncut sheet New: \$265 FR1232 Uncut sheet New: \$175								
FR1382 Gray Fractional Shield: \$2,600								

In conclusion, we continue to find that old auction catalogues are one of the most important research tools. Besides providing information about the actual notes, it gives a fascinating perspective on many other things such as prices realized, grading standards, and biographical information. No fractional library would be complete without the Rothert catalogue or his Guidebook. It's a culmination of his life's passion and when presented well, it becomes memorialized forever...a testament to an accomplished gentleman. As a final thought, it is understandable why so many of the great collections are sent to auction. Maybe you can get more money selling it privately but having your legacy elegantly preserved is probably its greatest reward.



## New Envelope With Postage Note Discovered

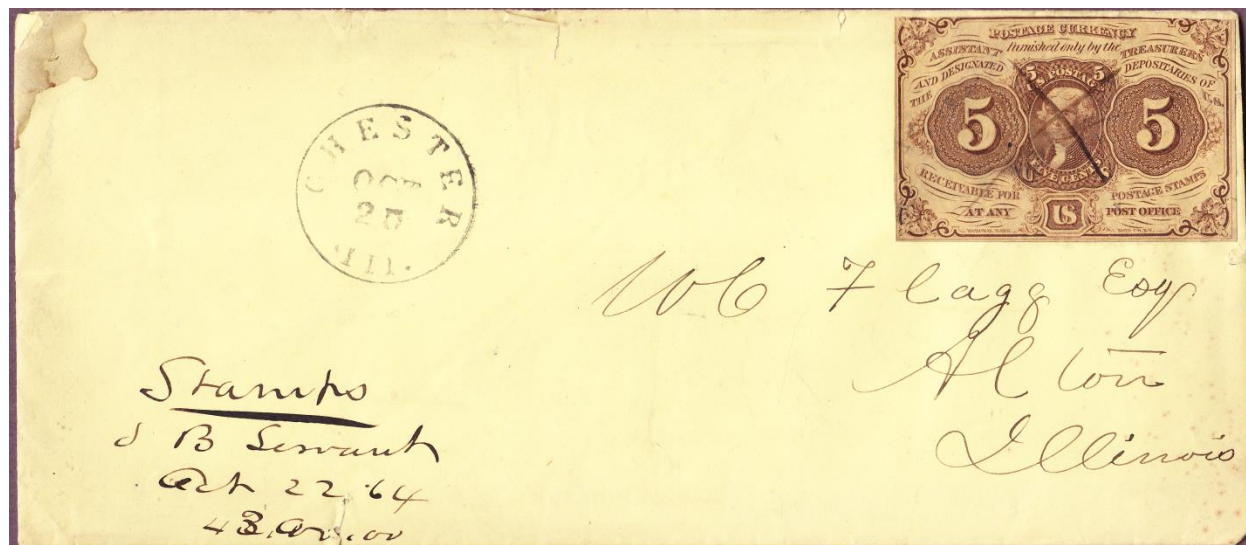
By

*Rick Melamed*

One of the great pleasures in researching fractional currency is connecting a piece of numismatic history to a specific person; especially someone with an interesting story to tell. In an instant, an inanimate object comes alive with a story filled with passion, hopes and dreams. In this case, the long-forgotten life of W.C. (William Cutting) Flagg is brought back to life because some unknown person used a postage note instead of a postage stamp to mail a letter. Examples of envelopes mailed with a postage note are quite rare with maybe a dozen known. The reasons are apparent. First there is the ephemeral nature of the envelope; there is little reason to save something that has served its purpose. Second is the cost. In 1864 it took 2¢ to mail a letter; using a 5¢ postage note was extravagant and indicated the sender did not have a stamp and needed to mail the letter ASAP. No doubt the sender reached into his/her wallet and pulled out a 5¢ postage note and glued it onto the letter.

In the May/June issue of Paper Money (Vol. LV, No. 3, Whole No. 303) I had an article published "Utilizing Postage Currency as Postage Stamps." In the article I showcased the fascinating life of WW2 hero, Captain Patrick Byrne. Patrick was an accomplished navy pilot and frequently flew President Franklin Roosevelt to his summer home in Maine. Captain Byrne knowing FDR was an avid philatelist gave the President a letter sent by his father-in-law that contained interesting

international postmarks and (2) postage currency notes. In researching other examples beyond the Byrne envelope, it became clear that very few of these exist. As luck would have it, a new and undocumented example made its way onto eBay being sold by a stamp dealer as a "Forgery Pairing." An inaccurate description, since there is no intent at forgery. More aptly, it should have been described as an "Inaccurate Pairing" or "Inappropriate Pairing". From my standpoint, I would describe this a "Fortunate Pairing" since this adds to the very thin population of known letters with postage notes.



As for the envelope itself, it is postmarked October 20, 1864. There is no return address, but on the bottom left, in a different cursive, it is addressed as Stamps with a hard to distinguished name of J B Senauh?? dated October 22, 1864. Perhaps someone in W.C. Flagg's office recorded its receipt on the envelope. It is fortunate that JB recorded precisely when it was received so we can accurately date it. In the upper right corner is a 5¢ postage note (FR1230/31) that is hand canceled. As for the addressee, W. C. Flagg, Esq., this is where this envelope becomes more interesting. Flagg was a mid-level politician, involved in Illinois state politics, horticultural activities and fought for the rights of the state farmers. Flagg was also on the board of trustees that helped form the University of Illinois. He was a Lincoln appointee who engaged in enrollment for the Union army and was a passionate advocate for his principles. Excerpts from his speeches, indicate that Flagg was fervent abolitionist. His life was sadly cut short by influenza at the young age of 48, never realizing his full potential. We are lucky to have this surviving envelope where we can glimpse into his short but rich, full life 150+ years ago.

From the Illinois State journal, 1912, is the following biography of Mr. Flagg:

*Willard Cutting Flagg was the only son of Gershom and Jane (Paddock) Flagg. He was born September 16, 1829, prepared for college in St. Louis, and graduated from Yale in 1854 (presumably with a law degree). Returning to Illinois he took charge of his father's farm in Madison County and made a specialty of horticulture. He was Secretary of the State Horticultural Association from 1861 to 1869 and afterwards its President. He played a prominent part in the establishment of the Illinois Industrial University, now the University of Illinois, and was on its board of trustees from the start until his death in 1878. In politics, Flagg was a Republican and in 1860, President Lincoln appointed him collector of internal revenue for the twelfth district of Illinois, a position he held until 1869. He was also (the) enrolling officer for Madison County during the (Civil) War, by appointment by Governor Richard Yates, and was state senator from 1869 to 1873. During the decade of the (18)70's he was one of the leaders of the "Farmer's Movement" or "Granger Movement" \* as it was called and was president of the State Farmers Association. The objective of this movement were*



*the organization of farmers for their mutual advantage, and the regulation of railroads by the state. Flagg made speeches and wrote articles on the railroad question which attracted the attention in the East as well as in Illinois. The movement led to the formation of the "Independent Reform" party in 1874 and Flagg, who was always a hard-money man, strove, but without success, to keep the organization from adopting greenback planks.*

*In addition to his political and agricultural activities, Flagg was deeply interested in western history and gathered together a considerable library on the subject together with a large number of manuscripts and newspaper clippings relating to the history of Illinois and of Madison County. To him is due the credit for the collection and preservation of these letters written by his father. These books and manuscripts are now in possession of his son, Hon. Norman G. Flagg.*

*Willard C. Flagg was married February 13, 1856 to Sarah Smith of St. Louis. He died in the prime of his life, March 30, 1878, and his widow survived him until February 17, 1905. Their three children living are, Mrs. Isabel Hatch of Springfield, Illinois, Mrs. Mary W. Gillham of Wanda, Madison County, Illinois; and Norman Gershom Flagg of Moro, Madison County, Illinois.*

\*The Granger movement was a coalition of U.S. farmers, particularly in the Middle West, that fought monopolistic grain transport practices during the decade following the American Civil War. The Granger movement began with a single individual, Oliver Hudson Kelley. The Patrons of Husbandry, or the Grange, was founded in 1867 to advance methods of agriculture, as well as to promote the social and economic needs of farmers in the United States.



WILLARD CUTTING FLAGG



W.C. Flagg was a handsome and honorable man. While not famous (he does garner enough gravitas to make it onto Wikipedia), he was notable for his many interests, pursuits in education, politics and the rights of his fellow Illinois farmers and the freedom of enslaved African Americans.



# FANTASTIC SURCHARGE ERROR ON 2ND ISSUE FIBER FRACTIONAL

By

*Rick Melamed*

Research on error notes will never be complete since there are always new and interesting discoveries. The following example, from Lyn Knight in the upcoming June 2019 IPMS auction in Kansas City is a real stunner. Shown is a 2<sup>nd</sup> issue 5¢ fiber note (Fr. 1235) with a misaligned surcharge. The bottom 5<sup>th</sup> of the “5” surcharge has been cut off because the position of the font is so low. The bottom of the “5” surcharge from the note above has crept its way to the top. Just as cool is the floating corner surcharges. The “R” surcharge positioned in the center left is an error aficionado’s dream.



Thanks to Lyn Knight for the image.

